



**For immediate release:**

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## **ADEM Supports Designation of Alabama A&M University**

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have partnered to officially designate Alabama A&M University as a Center of Excellence in Watershed Management. The designation will enhance efforts to protect and preserve water resources in Alabama and will also provide opportunities for Alabama A&M University students and faculty to increase their study of water resources and watershed management.

ADEM Director Trey Glenn, EPA Water Division Director Jim Giattina, and AAMU President Dr. Beverly Edmond commemorated this event by signing a Memorandum of Understanding during a ceremony on January 29. Alabama A&M University becomes the first historically black college/university in the nation to receive this prestigious designation. In addition, Alabama becomes the only state in the nation with two universities to be designated as a Center of Excellence in Watershed Management as both Alabama A&M University and Auburn University have achieved this designation.

“The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is extremely proud to partner with Alabama A&M University in this effort to protect our water resources in Alabama,” said ADEM Director Trey Glenn. “Alabama’s water resources provide recreational opportunities and employment opportunities for countless Alabama citizens and this partnership will only enhance the Department’s efforts to protect those water resources.”

Alabama A&M University had to demonstrate technical expertise, a willingness to partner with other institutions, and support from the highest levels of the university prior to being selected. In addition, they had to document the ability to involve students and faculty in the area of watershed research.

The ability to address water issues on a watershed basis presents numerous advantages, as well as challenges. Watersheds cross political boundaries and efforts to address water issues on a watershed basis require enhanced, effective communication between all stakeholders. The establishment of Alabama A&M University as a Center of Excellence in Watershed Management will provide additional communication opportunities and will also provide local citizens a vested interest in protecting their water resources at the local level.

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